

**Macleay Valley Coast Scenic Drives**

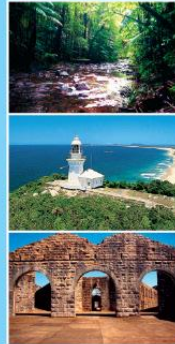
Please note the distances and conditions of the drives may vary and distances are measured from the information centre. For more information contact the Macleay Valley Coast Information Centre on 1800 642 480.

**TOURIST DRIVE 12 (82kms bitumen)** – This scenic trip takes you to some of the valley's most pristine beaches and charming villages. If heading north, take a right-hand turn opposite the Macleay Valley Coast Information Centre to Crescent Head - famed for its great surf. The drive continues to SWR and meanders beside the Belmore River past productive farmland and picturesque riverside towns. Historic Gladstone is home to arts, crafts and sister village Smithtown across the river has a great pub nearby and Jerseyville harbours colourful fishing boats with the local fishing co-op selling the catch of the day. If travelling south, take a left turn off the Pacific Highway into Plummers Lane at Clybucca, about 15 minutes north of Kempsey, and follow the signs to historic South West Rocks (SWR).

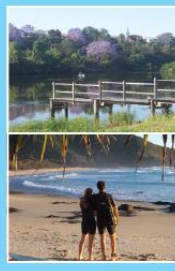
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**TOURIST DRIVE 14 (26kms bitumen)** – The drive winds its way through volcanic soil bursting with tropical fruit and nut plantations, pockets of rainforest and native bushland to tranquil, seaside villages. To get there travel 30kms north of Kempsey and turn right to Stuarts Point. This pleasant village on the banks of the Macleay River is an anglers and boat lovers haven, while nearby Grassy Head and Scotts Head boast superb swimming and surfing beaches. If heading north travel through Macksville then just past the Warrell Creek Bridge take a right at the signposted Scotts Head Rd.




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# Macleay Valley Coast Scenic Drives

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**For more information contact Kempsey Visitor Information Centre. Ph 1800 642 480**

**KEMPSEY SCENIC DRIVE (17kms bitumen)** – Call into the Kempsey Visitor Information Centre in South Kempsey where you'll find a range of maps, brochures and helpful staff to provide first-hand information on this beautiful region. To discover more about the area's rich history take a tour through the adjacent Museum and Settlers Cottage then wander the Macleay Valley Heritage Trail and other historic walks. For a panoramic view across the Macleay River to Kempsey, its surrounding farmland and the blue-green hills beyond, continue along the Pacific Highway to Rudder Park Lookout on your left just 1.6kms north of the information centre. For a tour of historic West Kempsey, more breathtaking views and a pleasant picnic area beside the Macleay River return to the highway then veer left at the first set of traffic lights into Belgrave St. To find the riverbank take the first left into John St then a left at Eden St and the car park will be on your right. To reach the Eureka Lookout and more fantastic views, return to Eden St, turn left and drive under a railway duct and around a sweeping right-hand bend into Tozer St. Turn left at the next intersection into Elbow St and follow the road, as it swings right into River St. Continue past the cemetery and hospital to the lookout located on the left in a layby opposite Leith St. To continue the drive, head west then turn right at the Pacific Highway signpost into North St just after the 70kms sign and continue past Warwick Racecourse. Just before the railway-crossing take a right into Kemp Street and enjoy the architectural splendour of the historic Catholic and Anglican churches. To return to the highway veer left into Sea Street opposite the restored Court House then turn left at the roundabout and retrace your steps back down Belgrave St.

**POINT PLOMER SCENIC DRIVE (74kms bitumen and gravel)** – To experience a magnificent seascape, turn right off the highway opposite the Kempsey Visitor Information Centre and follow Tourist Drive 12 to Crescent Head. When you reach the delightful village centre, turn left at the roundabout and park in the day visitor area to enjoy a walk along Crescent Head's long, sweeping beach and prominent headland. Drive back to the roundabout, turn left into Rankine St and follow the golf course. Park on the left just before the road turns hard right and take a short stroll along the headland to the twin water towers - transformed into a stunning mosaic artwork with the help of local school children. Return to your car and follow Dulconghi St until you come to a T-intersection. Take a left into Skyline Crescent to the water tower lookout and marvel at the breathtaking, 360-degree views up and down the coastline. To take the Point Plomer Scenic Drive, travel back down Skyline Crescent and turn left into High St, then left again into Baker Drive. Directly in front of you is the Centenary Pavilion - a great spot for a barbecue or a cuppa. Baker Drive becomes Point Plomer Rd and leads to the secluded beaches of Goolawah, Racecourse, Delicate Nobby and Point Plomer. Its predominately a two-wheel gravel road but a 4WD is required from Point Plomer onwards. For bushwalkers there's an enchanting walk through littoral rainforest at Big Hill. Retrace your journey to Crescent Head but turn left off Baker Drive to return to Kempsey or to continue following Tourist Drive 12 take a right off Crescent Head Rd into Belmore St opposite the school and follow the signs to Gladstone.

**HAT HEAD SCENIC DRIVE (30kms bitumen)** – To visit Hat Head turn right off the South West Rocks Rd at the brown national park sign just after Kinchela. Cradled in the bush, Hat Head is renowned as a top fishing and swimming spot. There's a day visitor area so you can stop a while to enjoy a swim or throw in a line. To stretch your legs on a walking trail in the Hat Head National Park, leave the village and turn left over a small bridge. Follow the road to the Gap Picnic Area - gateway to Hat Head National Park. Walking trails traverse the coastline and offer bird watchers a chance to spot a wide variety of bird life. You can deviate to the left on your way back on a gravel road to take in the scenery from Hat Head Lookout, adjacent to the water tower. Return to Hat Head and follow the signs back to Kempsey.

**SOUTH WEST ROCKS SCENIC DRIVE (35kms bitumen)** – Sheltered beaches, great fishing and boating, Trial Bay Goal, Arakoon State Conservation Area and Smoky Cape Lighthouse lie at road's end and combine to make 'The Rocks' memorable. Add a dash of fine dining, a relaxed atmosphere, kangaroos and passing humpback whales and dolphins, and you may never want to leave. For information and maps of the area call into the Visitor Information Centre located within the Boatmans Cottage in Ocean Drive at the western end of Livingstone St. Linger over the Macleay Valley Coast's maritime history displayed in the cottage then follow Livingstone St past the caravan park to the day visitor area to enjoy stunning ocean views or a swim in the aquamarine waters of nearby Horseshoe Bay. To continue the historical tour, veer left into Memorial Avenue, then Landsborough St and finally follow Phillip Dr. Continue past the SWR Country Club and follow the signs to the gaol and conservation area. While there, why not stretch your legs on Monument Trail? When leaving Arakoon, turn left into Little Bay for a picnic beside the duck pond and keep an eye out for kangaroos along the way. A left-hand turn into Russell St on your return journey leads to Smoky Cape Lighthouse, via the aptly named Lighthouse Road. Follow the signs to the lighthouse and stunning coastal views. Retrace your way down Lighthouse Rd then turn left into Arakoon Rd, right onto South West Rocks Road and continue until it meets Gregory Street. If you fancy a drink or a meal beside the river, turn left into Gordon Young Drive then left into Gilbert Cory St and follow the signs to the boat ramp and the Riverside Tavern. To return to Kempsey continue along New Entrance Rd, keeping the river on your left. Go left at a give way sign then take a quick right into Entrance St, left into Rudder St and continue straight ahead as the road becomes Gordon Young Drive. A left on Gregory St will take you back into SWR or turn right to return to Pacific Highway. Head out of town on South West Rocks Rd and cross the Jerseyville Bridge then follow Plummers Lane to the highway and turn right. For a tour of Smithtown continue along SWR Rd back through Kinchela and cross Major Oakes Bridge, just before Gladstone. Enjoy a drink and a meal at the local pub. Head back out of town and turn left on Smithtown Rd and follow it to the highway. Once there turn left and head back to Kempsey. Kempsey can also be reached by continuing through Gladstone and following the road straight to the highway at South Kempsey.

**YARRAHAPINNI SCENIC DRIVE (125kms bitumen and gravel)** – Follow the Pacific Highway north through Kempsey to Warrell Creek then turn right at the fire station into Albert Drive. Turn left at the Yarrahapinni Mountain sign and then right into Rosewood Rd, signposted Yarrahapinni Mountain. Continue on until you reach Tower Rd and turn right to Yarrahapinni Mountain lookout, located in the Yarrabinni National Park. On a clear day you can see forever. To enjoy a picnic lunch at the Pines Picnic Area retrace your route down Tower Rd then turn right on Way Way Creek Rd. Travel across two bridges and four shallow water crossings to the well-maintained picnic area and turn right into Jimmys Ridge Rd. Park in the day visitor car park and enjoy a discovery walk through the rainforest. To return to Kempsey via Grassy Head continue along the road and traverse three shallow water crossings. Finally you'll come to a main tar road, go straight across that road and follow the signs to Grassy Head Reserve. Enjoy a swim then turn left as you leave the reserve and follow Grassy Head Rd to Stuarts Point. Turn left onto Stuarts Point Rd and drive a short distance to the reserve to enjoy a 45-minute scenic walk or boat access. To return to Kempsey follow Stuarts Point Rd to the highway and turn left.

**WINERY TRAIL SCENIC DRIVE (30kms bitumen)** – To begin the grape trail turn left into Middleton Street, just north of the Kempsey Visitor Information Centre and follow this road until you reach Sherwood Estate Vineyard. Middleton St becomes Gowings Hill Rd and leads you through undulating farmland. At Sherwood Estate relax in the garden setting and enjoy some premium local wines. Leaving the estate, turn left then take a right at the T-intersection on Sherwood Rd. Follow the road through Aldavilla to Armidale Rd then turn right. At Greenhill take a left into Spooners Ave and travel 2kms to continue sampling local wines at Dangars Creek Vineyard. The winery boasts a unique local product made on the premises. While in the vicinity why not visit the Mesopotamia Deer Farm just up the road. It's a perfect way to spend a full-bodied afternoon.

**TAYLORS ARM SCENIC DRIVE (150kms bitumen and gravel)** – From the Kempsey Traffic Bridge head left into Belgrave St and follow the road across the railway crossing and through the roundabout to Elbow St in West Kempsey. Travel through shopping centre, follow the sweeping right-hand bend into River St and then continue along the Armidale Rd. Turn right to Millbank on Hickeys Creek Rd and travel through this charming valley with its babbling creek. Continue along the unsealed road into Billybyang Rd, veer right abruptly and take Sundowner Rd through the State Forest. Follow the road, as it becomes Greenhills Rd and then turn right into Taylors Arm Rd. Continue along the road to the 'Pub with No Beer' made famous in Slim Dusty's classic ballad. Leaving the pub, turn right and follow Taylors Arm Rd until it reaches Boundary St then veer left. Follow the road past the high school and hospital until you reach the Pacific Highway at Macksville then turn right to head back to Kempsey.

**COLLOMBATTI LOOKOUT SCENIC DRIVE (92kms bitumen and gravel - blue and brown markers point the way)** – Travel north on the highway and turn left 200 metres past the 50km sign at Frederickton into Collobattai Road, taking next left as Collobattai Rd continues. Follow the road as it turns into Tamban Rd and follow the Forrest Rd signs. Keep the railway crossing on your left and continue straight ahead onto the gravel road and cross a wooden bridge into the Tamban State Forest. At a large sign turn left to Tamban St Forest Drive then left into Range Rd. Continue along to Buds Crossing and follow Cedar Park signs then veer right into Buds Crossing Rd. Follow the road then veer left into Stockyard Creek Rd then left again into Jacks Rd at Cedar Park Picnic Area, also on the left. There you'll find a pleasant, well-maintained picnic site on the banks of Stockyard Creek. After lunch why not take a walk through the rainforest at Ngambaa Nature Reserve? To return to Kempsey exit the park and turn left back into Jacks Rd then left onto Wittigs Rd and continue straight ahead. At a fork in the road, veer left into Greenhills Rd then take another left at the next fork to reach Collobattai Lookout, 1km ahead (four wheel drive vehicles only). Retrace your route from the lookout then turn left into Western Range Rd. At a T-intersection, turn left into Starling Rd then cross a cattle grid and continue past picturesque farmland. Turn right onto Mungay Creek Rd where the road once again becomes tar. At the next T-intersection turn right to visit historic Willawarrin just 1 km N/W. When leaving Willawarrin head back the way you came and follow the Armidale Rd back to Kempsey.

**SLIM DUSTY WAY SCENIC DRIVE (180 kms bitumen and some gravel)** – To find Slim Dusty's childhood home at Nulla Nulla head north across the Kempsey Traffic Bridge and veer left at the first set of traffic lights into Belgrave St. Drive across a railway-crossing and straight through the roundabout to Elbow St and the commercial centre of West Kempsey. Follow the road west, as it turns sharply into River St and then head to Bellbrook along the Armidale Road. Turn right just before Bellbrook into Nulla Nulla Rd and Slim's home is just over two kilometres past the bitumen on the left. While his home is closed to the public, there is an interactive display out the front that traces his rise to stardom. Return to the Armidale Road, then turn right toward Bellbrook and enjoy a wander back in time through this Heritage Trust listed village. Continue west about 20kms along the Armidale Road to Blackbird Flat picnic area for a BBQ or a swim in cool mountain water. Follow the Armidale Rd back to Kempsey.

**KOOKABURRA SCENIC DRIVE (240kms bitumen and gravel- possible 4WD vehicle required for last lookout)** – Take the Armidale Rd west of Kempsey and turn left into Sherwood Road. Turn left at next intersection into Carrai Rd and cross a wooden bridge and drive through the Carrai State Forest en route to Kookaburra, Daisy plains and Mary's View. Just a short walk into the rainforest at Kookaburra takes you to the top of a waterfall. At Kookaburra, veer right along Carrai Road and on to Daisy Plains. After inspecting the old steam tractor at Daisy Plains pass through a stock gate then turn left into Cochrane Rd just past the Daisy Plains huts. From there take a left into Warrick Rd and follow the signs to Mary's View Lookout. Retrace your route to Kempsey or take the Willi Willi Rd to Morparabah on the right. Cross McCoy's Creek bridge and drive past poplar plantations then cross the Toorumbec Creek Bridge and turn left into Temagog Rd. Turn right back onto the Armidale Rd and return to Kempsey.